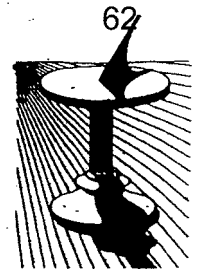


Why Study Prophecy Now?



1. THE CONVERGENCE OF THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

Never before have Israel, a Western Europe union, Russia, China, the one world church and the United Nations all emerged and moved toward their position during the tribulation.

2. THE CONFLICT IN THE ARAB WORLD.

Arab dictators unexpectedly and inexplicably are losing their stranglehold over their populations. Old alliances are dissolved, new alliances emerge, almost overnight.

3. THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST ISRAEL.

Antisemitism is sweeping the world, spearheaded by Iran, which is frantically completing a nuclear bomb to be used against Israel. Meanwhile Reformed theologians deny Israel a future

4. THE COLLAPSE OF THE EUROPEAN FINANCIAL STRUCTURE.

The so-called "PIGS Nations" (Portugal, Italy, Greece, Spain) are dragging the rest of the countries in the Eurozone into ever deeper depression. Europe is virtually begging for a strong leader to rescue the situation.

5. THE CULMINATION OF THE PROPHETIC STUDIES IN THE END TIMES.

By studying prophecy, the believer of the 21st century, with the benefit of great prophecy teachers gone before, is actually fulfilling the prediction of Daniel 12:4.

6. THE CONTENT OF SCRIPTURE WITH 17 PROPHETIC BOOKS.

The biblical emphasis on prophecy makes the study of end-time events unavoidable. One-fourth of the Bible at the time of its writing was prophetic. To declare the whole counsel of God means to speak out on major prophetic themes.

7. THE COMMAND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Holy Sprit enabled the biblical writers to reveal "things to come" (John 16:13), which truths believers are to use for mutual instruction and comfort (1. Thess. 4:13, 18). Knowledge of the future allows the believer to live in the calm of eternity now.



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Is This the Year of Christ's Return?

We are surrounded by the signs of the times which point to a soon fulfilment!



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



Will Christ Return in Our Lifetime?

Perhaps so! Let us consider the

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

1. The Establishment of the State of Israel

A. Prophetic significance

Prophetically there does not need to be a nation of Israel until the Tribulation.

B. The present situation

Since 1948, the modern the modern state of Israel exists in the ancient Jewish homeland. Israel just celebrated 70 years of nationhood. Despite five wars by neighboring nations who sought to totally destroy Israel, God providentially and miraculously gave Israel the victory each time. One can be assured that this nation will soon begin to fulfill its many prophecies.

America's original unilateral support of the establishment of the state of Israel is well known. Our country's diplomatic, military and economic support (in excess of \$3.8 billion per year) would be pleasing to the Lord (Gen. 12:3).



2. The Emergence of a One-World Church

A. Prophetic significance

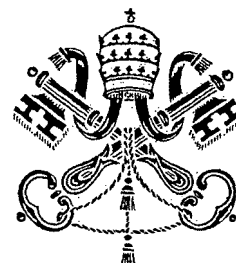
During the first half of the tribulation, a world religion will exist with HQ in Rome.

B. The present situation

In 1948, the WCC was founded in Amsterdam with the avowed purpose of uniting all denominations. Most of the mainline denominations have merged into an organization known as COCU (Consultation of Church Union). Furthermore, in recent years overtures have been made by Protestants to find common ground with Rome. Rome is clearly portrayed as the center of the apostate church of the tribulation (Rev. 17:9). It is most interesting that the Pope has made numerous overtures to non-Christian religions.



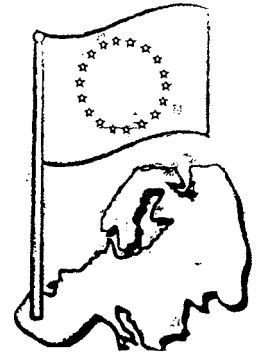
**World Council
of Churches**



3. The Existence of the European Union

A. Prophetic significance

Daniel predicts the revival of the Roman Empire early in the tribulation.



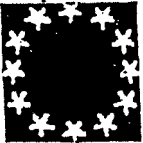
B. The present situation

Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister, was one of the first to call for a "United States of Europe." In his "Speech to the Academic Youth" at the University of Zürich in 1946 he called for a "remedy which . . . would in a few years make all of Europe . . . free and . . . happy . . . We must build a kind of United States of Europe."

In western Europe an economic union has evolved into a political trans-national entity known as the European Union. In 1957, the Treaty of Paris formed an economic union of six European nations, which has since evolved into a political and economic union of 28 members, involving an estimated population of 513 million.

A monetary union of nineteen EU member states came in force on January 1, 2002, considered by many to be the most important step toward a complete political union of the United States of Europe.

On November 21, 2018, German chancellor Angela Merkel stated that nation-states must "give up their sovereignty" and added that national leaders must not listen to the rule of their citizens "on important matters." Merkel's words presage a domineering European super-governor.



4. The Efforts of Russia

A. Prophetic significance

At the midpoint of the tribulation, Russia will invade Israel and be destroyed.

B. The present situation

Russia has had a design on the Near East for many years, especially in recent decades. After the fall of the Soviet Union on December 26, 1991, and after a short democratic interlude, Russia is flexing its military muscle and threatening its neighbors. The dictator Putin makes efforts to expand Russia's influence. The invasion of Georgia and usurpation of the Krim Peninsula and the eastern Ukraine are but forerunners of Russia's future territorial expansion intimated in Ezekiel 38 and 39. For the first time ever, Russia has established two military bases in close proximity of Israel: the Hmeimin Air Base southeast of the city of Latakia and the naval facility of Tarus on the Mediterranean. The Russian Bear is moving into strategic position foretold by the prophet Ezekiel.



5. The Endeavors of the UNO

A. Prophetic significance

Antichrist will rule as tyrant over the entire world during the last half of the Tribulation.

B. The present situation

The UNO, founded in 1945, purports to be a one-world government. Since its founding on April 25, 1945, in San Francisco, with a membership of 51 states, this inter-governmental organization has grown to a membership of 193. Whereas the UNO was established to promote peace and harmony among nations, its actual peace-keeping efforts can claim little success. Alger Hiss, an American State Department official and convicted Communist spy, was the driving force of the establishment of the organization.



Of the United Nations budget, 7.8 billion dollars, the United States contributes 22 percent or 2.2 billion dollars; and yet, the UNO member states vote generally and habitually against American and Israeli interests. Rather than acting as a peace-keeping force, it aspires to be a global government. On September 25, 2018, President Donald Trump, in his speech at the UN, rightly blasted the organization's "ideology of globalism." Sadly, almost half of the UNO's resolutions are directed against Israel.

6. The Expansion of China

A. Prophetic significance

An army of 200 million Asiatics will participate in the campaign of Armageddon (Dan. 11:44; Rev. 9:16). The army might be comprised of various Asiatic nations, but the likelihood is that they are an invading force from China.

B. The present situation

Since 1949, Communists have controlled the world's most populous country. The world fears China's recent efforts to expand globally. China boasts 618 million (!) males and females fit for military service (CIA estimate).



In recent years China has expanded its military presence in the international waters of the Pacific, usurping islands belonging to other Asiatic nations. China's efforts to be a world power, indeed, to take over the United States, has been chronicled by arguably America's most astute China expert, Michael Pillsbury in 2015. In *The 100-Year Marathon: China's Secret Strategy to Replace America as a Global Power* he outlines China's long-range plans, which brought nothing but trouble to the United States. President Trump considers Dr. Pillsbury to be his most important advisor on the China situation. The President rightly declares the fact that China inflicts losses of \$50 million yearly on American companies, primarily by stealing intellectual property.

7. The Explosion of Globalization

A. Prophetic significance

For the final three years of the Tribulation Antichrist will exercise absolute world-wide control in the political and economic area.

B. The present situation

Since the 1940's, computers have led to a problematic globalization of the world's communications, finances and commerce. Many people today view the globalization, especially in the financial area, if not an evil, at least a problem. Globalism with its world-wide integration makes it possible for a few major institutions such as the World Monetary Fund, major banks, or global companies, to influence and even control the economic situation in distant countries. One thinks of the 2008 global financial crisis, which had repercussions worldwide. It is not difficult to see how globalism limits the engendering of local loyalties. The instituting of international guidelines could set the stage for the time when the Roman dictator foretold in Revelation 13:16, 17 can control the economy world-wide, forbidding anyone without the mark of the beast from buying or selling.

Globalism

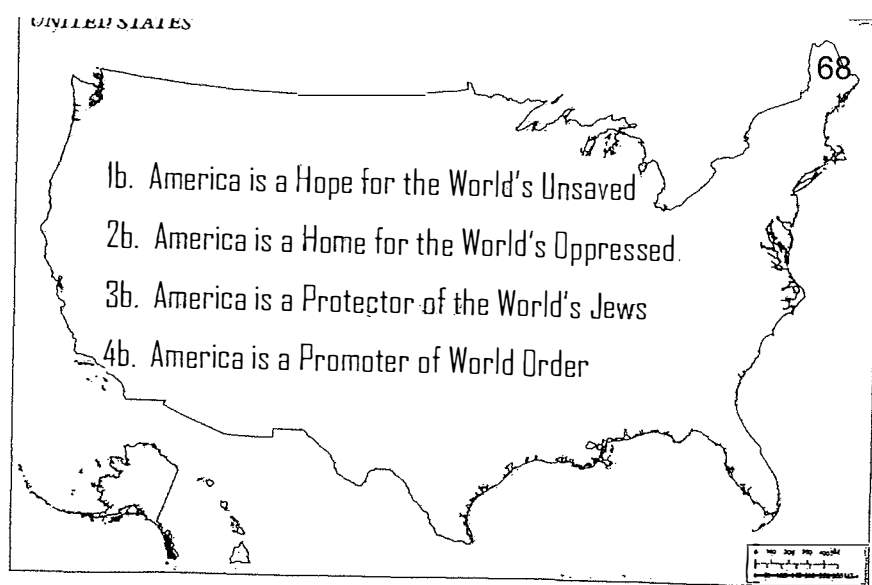


CONCLUSION:

1. This year we are one year closer to the rapture than we were last year.
2. No prophecies need to be fulfilled before that glorious event.
3. Never before has there been such a convergence of the signs of the times than now.
4. Christ promised to come quickly. He will not delay His coming one moment longer than necessary (Rev. 22:12).
5. The believer joins the Holy Spirit in eager expectation of our translation.
Rev. 22:17 "The Spirit and the Bride say, Come!"
6. We are enjoined to look forward to that climactic event.
Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing . . ."
7. We take comfort and are able to comfort one another with the blessed thought of the Bridegroom's return for His Bride (1 Thess. 4:18).



Addendum



THE RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S DESTINY:



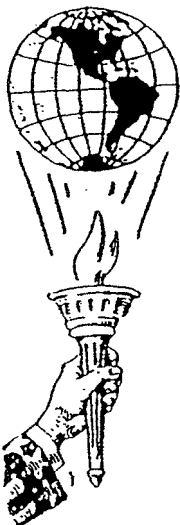
Paul, speaking to the Athenians on Mars Hill, told them a profound truth about God and His relationship to nations:

Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;



God has appointed concerning each nation its times and bounds or its chronological and geographical boundaries. This passage argues forcefully for the fact that God has a purpose for each nation. God brings a nation about at a specific point in time and at a particular location on earth because of a divine design for that nation.

While our nation is not mentioned specifically in prophecy, we can nevertheless infer God's destiny for the USA by contemplating the course of our country. There appear to be three discernible reasons why God has raised our country.



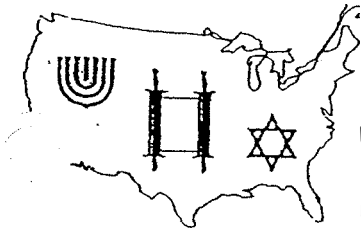
1b. The United States promotes missionary activity.

The very first settlers testified that they came here as the Mayflower Compact states, "for the glory of God, and the advancement of the Christian faith." In the New England confederation of 1943, the uniform testimony is "whereas we all came into these parts of America with one and the same end, namely, to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and enjoy the liberties of the gospel in purity with peace."

God has honored America for its missionary efforts. Of the world's 50,000 evangelical missionaries, 45,000 come from the USA. God needs a lighthouse for the world's unsaved right until the rapture, after which the 144,000 witnesses will be ministering.

2b. America protects the chosen people.

Ever since Roger Williams encouraged the persecuted Jews of Europe to settle in his colony, America has been a refuge for Jews. Of the world's 17 million Jewish people, 7 million live in the USA. With our national efforts the modern state of Israel was established.



Its continuation has been assured by the consistent support by the USA. God promises to bless those who would bless Israel (Gen. 12:3). God is blessing us and will bless us because of our special relationship to His special people. After the rapture, when our country becomes antisemitic, Antichrist will sign a treaty of protection with Israel. Until then it seems to be God's design for America to help Israel.

- 3b. America provides a home for the politically and religiously persecuted all around the world.



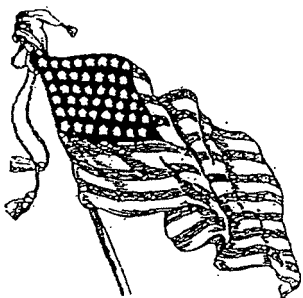
The Statue of Liberty best represents one aspect of America which appears to point toward our destiny as a house for the world's oppressed. It may well be that God has raised the USA in part to be a "Mother of Exiles." Such a refugee nation appears to be needed until the rapture.

God will not let America's sins go unpunished. But the well-deserved and long-delayed judgment will not come until the righteous have been removed. As He removed Noah and his family before He brought the flood and as He removed righteous Lot before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, so God will remove the believers through the rapture before He sends His judgment upon the earth, including our beloved nation.

- 4b. America projects global stability.

It seems to be God's providential design for America to serve as a steadying force in the world, both economically and militarily. Even the *New York Times* admits that "the American economy is acting as a steadying force in volatile world" (1/7/16). While our Founding Fathers argued for an isolationism, the two world wars imposed on the USA a role of intervention which it did not seek, to save Europe from a calamitous, indeed catastrophic condition. America's unique role in the world can be easily demonstrated.

As Dennis Prager observes in *National Review* (9/17/13), in an article entitled "Yes, We are the World's Policeman" "U.S. troops around the world are the greatest preserver of liberty and peace . . . America's strength and willingness to use it has been the greatest force in history to liberty and world stability."



Prager correctly stresses that the world needs a policeman to curtail economic disruption, social chaos and the violent death of innocent people. If the USA were not functioning in this role the only possible alternative at the present moment would be a) No one b) Russia c) China d) Iran e) the United Nations. Dinesh D'Souza, in his superb volume, *America – Imagine the World Without Her*, comes to a similar conclusion.

In God's providence the USA plays that role, however imperfectly. We have the most vibrant economy and the most formidable military. It is impossible to imagine what the world situation would be like without America's protective presence. And one can only surmise that after the rapture, with the sudden disappearance of all believers, chaos and consternation will reign until Antichrist consolidates his empire. He, in turn, will be replaced by the Davidic Messiah whose world-wide kingdom of peace and righteousness has no end.

Eschatology Timeline

JUDGMENT
SEAT
OF CHRIST



MARRIAGE OF
THE LAMB



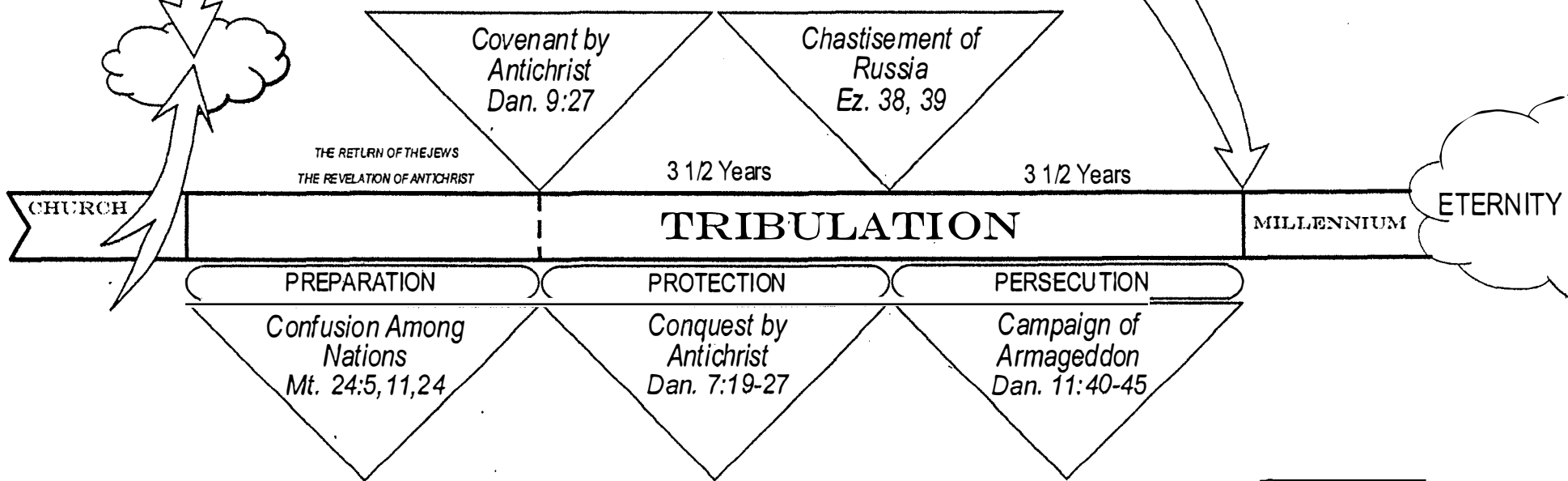
CELEBRATION

RAPTURE
FOR US

RETURN

REVELATION
WITH US

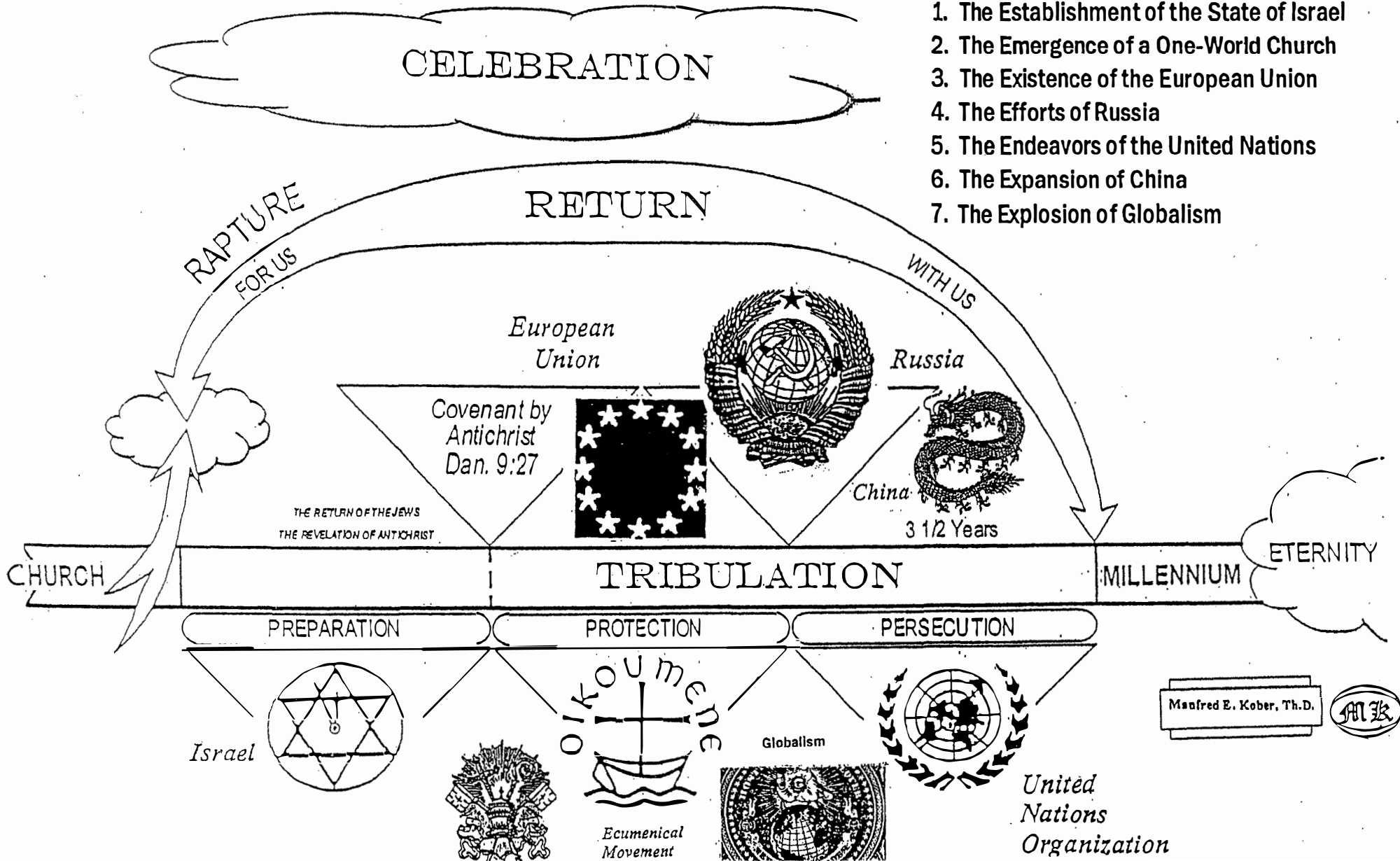
GREAT WHITE
THRONE
JUDGMENT



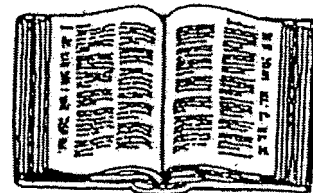
Major Movements as Prophetic Portents

SIGNS OF THE TIMES:

1. The Establishment of the State of Israel
2. The Emergence of a One-World Church
3. The Existence of the European Union
4. The Efforts of Russia
5. The Endeavors of the United Nations
6. The Expansion of China
7. The Explosion of Globalism



The Certainty of Scriptural Statements



ALL SCRIPTURE IS TRUE BUT NOT ALL SCRIPTURE
IS CLEAR OR PLAIN

2. PET. 3:15-16

The Meaning is

Indicated dogmatic

At death the believer is immediately in the presence of the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23)

Inferred definite

At death the believer is carried by an angel into the presence of God (Lk. 16:22)

Implied debatable

Angels protect the bodies of dead believers, as they did with the body of Moses (Jude 9)

Indefinite doubtful

Dead individuals return to life and tell of out-of-body experiences or visits to heaven (cf. Paul, 2 Cor. 12:2-4)

Invented dreadful

The idea of purgatory: The dead must be purged of their sins before entering heaven or paradise. The truth: The Savior is our purgatory, seeing that on the cross "He had by himself purged our sins" (Heb. 1:3b)

15 And account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.